

DRAGON USER

International edition

95p US\$3.25

August 1990

The independent Dragon magazine

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Letters

Pam's point

REALLY having a common interest of sympathy with Anthony North (see Letters) I am grateful that half of the magazine is devoted to user technicals.

Without the advertisements there would be no Dragon User at all, and then where would we be?

What I find most worrying is the non-membership. Many of the Dragon users I know personally buy the magazine more than occasionally.

With more and more software writers dishing up perverse people will be forced into buying Dragon User — then even more users will come more pages and the proportion of adverts may not look so large.

Long live Dragon User and Dragon Supplies

Peter D Avey
High Wycombe
Bucks

Vox Cumana

I HAVE a Dragon 32 with a Cumana semi disk drive and no software. Can anyone out there tell me if it is possible to convert the PMS file from Circle Software to run on my system and how? Also is anyone using a database that will run on my system?

A. Deacon
Runcorn
Cheshire

Peaksoft piqued

IN THIS June edition Brian Cidge mentioned an inquiry from a reader who has no problem running BASIC in running the Dragon 32 version of Tom Sawyer's Cricket on a Dragon 32.

The original issue of TUC would run only on the 32 and we therefore kept a small stock of amended copies for mail order customers who informed us that they had a 64 and to exchange for customers who bought the incorrect version from other outlets.

This is the chance to air your views — send your tips, comments and complaints to Letters Page, Dragon User 10-12 Little Margaret Street, London WC1B 7PP.

However, every copy of TUC (and every other PMS soft journal) which has been supplied since mid December 1984 has been fully compatible with the Dragon 64.

Although you reader could not then suggest, why his Dragon 32 version is not fully compatible with the Dragon 64, he is wise to have difficulty in persuading it to run unless he contacts us for guidance and if he would care to return it to us, we would be pleased to exchange it for a later return copy.

Harry Whitehouse
Peaksoft
49 Queen Street
Bridgwater
Somerset TA7 1JZ

DOS thanks

FINALLY my two year subscription to Dragon User has paid off. Thank you for your article about Dragonsoft in the May issue. We really do need information about this fascinating and undocumented bit of software.

Please publish more about it.

A. K. Economic
Jagannath Chatterjee
Institute of Physical
Sciences
Ranikhet
Kumaon

Flex fan

I WOULD be pleased to see two points fully the letter from Anthony North (June issue) concerning the price of Dragon User. Peter D Avey's article with details of a Dragon subscriber is a good year's subscription. Please Peter tell me how to do a print out.

My second point is the under way in which Brian Cidge reviewed Flex. It is obvious to me that he did not study the subject enough. I first purchased Flex from Prism and I was very poor but when Prism closed down I was given a great deal of help by Compuserve and I now have a very good Flex system.

British readers to these messages of the goodness of Flex for instance. The British press provides many useful aids like Flexmag which gives full memory details of any file and

it requires a complete dump of the file. This is also a very good DOS assembler and Debugger giving Data in which each file was made also start and end of file. There is also a lot more. I am not a very good programmer but I could not access pages of Dragon User with details of Flex.

J. McDonald
13 Concord Close
Little Chalfont
Buckinghamshire
Buckinghamshire

FOR the McD and others Flex fans, we will have Flex published by Roy Coomey — see next month's issue.

Miner problem

I AM writing to inquire about the Star Cards (Blaize, Unitec) in June's Dragon User. After spending a few hours putting the program in I found that it would not run. I tried to open and to log on the screen was M6 DATA ERROR. No matter what I did I could not get the program to work.

I was wondering if you could tell me if there was anything wrong with the program because if not it could be the computer as I have had trouble with it in the past.

Steve Lougham
Lemington
Newcastle Upon Tyne

M6 DATA ERROR means that you have made a mistake typing in the data statements. The timing persisted was absolutely correct according to Steve Gardner.

If you have any further problems, Steve has very kindly offered to help any readers who need it — write to him at 18 Redhouse Bank, Worplesdon St Andrew, Worplesdon, Cambs. He wants to receive a stamped self addressed envelope.

Good service

A SHORT while ago we recently had a problem with our DRAGONOS/DOS, where it refused to list the items — as a result the system was useless.

The reason could be that we

had everyone we could think of but were unable to get a replacement — even Dragon themselves couldn't help — or phoning Compuserve they had one!

However, after they checked the new cable with our equipment it was apparent that the cable was not the cause of the trouble. Although not San Jose Agents, Compuserve suggested we left our equipment with them and they would try and ascertain the cause of the trouble. They found it to be of mechanical origin, and promptly put it right.

The point I wish to illustrate is that not only are Compuserve good on software for the Dragon but they also offer courteous attention to Dragon users who have a problem. This cannot be said of many firms today.

J. L. Moseley
Enfield

Delta

USERS OF THE DELTA DOG may be interested in a useful utility which switches off the DOS to allow long BASIC programs to run without COM errors.

Load the program from tape and insert at the beginning of the program the following:

POLCE 377 57 CLEAR 200 6476FF

If the program contains a CLEAR statement just type in the POLCE. Now save to disk with SAVE, then run the program. The file will contain all of the BASIC OS commands so any attempt to use disk files will bring an IBM error. If the DOS monitor was not overwritten when running the program then the DOS can be re-installed.

POLCE 377 128 CLEAR 200 6476FF

In this way programs such as Dragon Text, Wizard Maths, Dragon's Diary and Up Persever will all load and run from disk.

How about an article on the DRAGON 32 since it seems to me that there is rather too much coverage given to the somewhat inferior DRAGON 3032 system.

J. Moseley
178 West Mill
Buntingford
Kings DR12 8TT

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All the above include Dragon compatible DOS and controller, PSU, instruction guide and all connecting cables.

Other systems available - please ring for full details.

Unlisted offer, all products are subject to availability.

Offer ends 31/12/85

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Science	Pre-K to Grade 12	
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Title	Author	Age Range	ISBN	Genre
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Cloud Music	Sherryl Woods	Intermediate	978-0-375-8200-1	Science Fiction
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Family Programs	Sherryl Woods	Intermediate	978-0-375-8200-3	Science Fiction
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TRADE ENQUIRIES: We welcome trade enquiries and each order will be individually assessed.

Third 6809 Show

THE THIRD 6809 Show will be held on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November 1985 at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall in Westminster London.

Tim Collins of Computer Marketplace, the organisers, believe that the show will be even more successful than the last two — two thirds of the stands have already been taken and we have had en-

quiries about the remainder.

Among the companies which have already taken space are ComputerSoft, Ian Morris, John Peter, Discount Software, Software Professionals, and of course, Spectrum Publications, publishers of *Dragon User*.

The show will be open from 10 am to 6 pm both days and admission on the door will be £3 for adults and £1 for children.

But Tim Collins pointed out that you can also buy advance tickets at a saving of £1 off the price on the door. Booking in advance will also save queuing — there will be a two-hour wait on both days next year. Advance ticket holders will be able to avoid any hold up on the door.

Computer Marketplace can be contacted at 28 Charing Cross, London WC2H 7BU.

Harris boxing clever

THE LATEST release from Harris Micro Software is a set of integrated accounting programs designed for use with Dragon 32.

Three programs — Salesforce, Receipts and Cashflow — are due for release in August.

Salesforce is a balance brought forward sales ledger with a number of facilities, including aged debt, percentage analysis and statements.

Receipts is a balance brought forward purchases ledger.

Cashflow is a Double Entry Money and Ledger program which allows the user to produce trial balance, balance sheets, profit and loss statement and so on.

In addition, *Cashflow* can read *Salesforce* and *Receipts* files and use the information in its own programs.

All three programs cost £19.99 each and will soon be joined by programs dealing with invoicing and stock control. Harris Micro Software is at 49 Ainsdale Road, Hornsey, London N10 5DN.

Plus plus

ANOTHER game design has just arrived. This time from American game firm Microdeal. The new game sets will be supplied free to Plus users, to demonstrate the company's continued support of the 32.

Based in 41 Research Road, Hemel Hempstead HP2 8QD.

Robin

MICRODEAL is doing very well with its new Pocket Money range, according to company spokesman Alan Hobbs.

All the games in the series are programs send in by British programmers — these were the ones we thought were good enough to develop further, said Alan Hobbs. They are aimed at soaking up pocket money — £8.99 is a lot of money for a game.

The best selling title is apparently *Robin Hood*, in which the player has to rescue Maid Marian from the clutches of the evil sheriff.

Other games in the series include *Pit Panel* (a *SpaceInvaders*-type invasion game), *Maniac* (a tank invasion simulation), and *Amber's Praddy* (a *ManiacMiner*-type game).

Maniac is at 41 True Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3JU.

Double entry

SOFTWARE Design has released three business accounts programs for the Dragon 32/64.

The programs can be used individually or combined to produce a double entry book keeping system which produces results that you can take to the Inland Revenue.

Software Design is at 80 Woodstock Doctor Huddersfield HD7 4PH.

Autorun

DATACOM has just released *Autorun 1.1*, a utility package for the Dragon 32.

It enables users to design their own eight column text or block graphic leading entries and customize their own programs.

It features a menu driven program, and needs no knowledge of machine code to use. It works for both Basic and machine code programs.

An additional feature allows the creation of a library of leading entries, which can then be used in a later date.

Autorun 1.1 costs £5.99. From Datocom, 2007 Hospital Centre, Birmingham B16 8PF.

Quick disk

PADOPH Electronics, which has been developing an MSA system for Outrider, the Spanish manufacturers of the Dragon, has just released a floppy disk drive compatible with the Dragon 32.

Called the Triton Quick Disk, it is almost certain to be the same Quick Disk that Outrider will be marketing in Europe under the Dragon trade name.

Play load for the 2.8 disk is the disk editor in a maximum of two seconds and a maximum of eight, according to Triton.

The Triton Quick Disk costs £19.95, including an interface box and all connecting cables and instructions.

Disk Doctor

Disk Doctor is the first product of a new company, Dragon Computing.

The disk contains a largely automatic series of utilities and functions which are designed to correct a large percentage of disk errors and problems encountered by Dragon owners.

The system can cope with multi disk configurations.

Disk Doctor costs £14.95, includes postage and packing.

Dragon Computing is at 115 Priory Avenue, Tiverton, Somerset TA1 1YB.

Blaby

BLABY COMPUTERS Games has a number of new releases for the Dragon and Tandy CoCo, including the company's first graphic adventure *Second and the Sopwith*.

Second and the Sopwith is a menu driven adventure in which the player has to retrieve the three parts of a mythical key.

Various items dotted around the game can be used by the player in defeating the lurking monsters without the key. For example, the Medusa can be killed.

Another Blaby game is *Castles of Chaos*, a *Maniac Miner*-type platform game with 20 screens. The key word *Pegasus* will allow players access to all of the screens so that they can practice.

Present at a game show is also *Crackit*, it features 13 screens full of the usual *Space Invaders* — it's surprising how long it can take to beat the game.

On a slightly different adventure note is a young programmes trying to get to Blaby Towers to get a job. There are various obstacles, including obstacles and places can where our hero can stand but if the right object has been collected all the gates cost £3.99 from Blaby Computer Games, Coalhouse House, Coalhouse Road, Blaby, Leicestershire LE12 8JL.

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Dragonsoft

Football

Program Football Manager
Developer Games To Go
Genre Hill, Football
Version DOS 3.0
Price £5.99

AS A person with very little experience of football I was rather pessimistic as to how to approach the program.

The first time I played it I was not particularly impressed, but when my football skills were tested once round, I decided it was up to those men with the result that he was immediately impressed, and subsequently I have become highly addicted myself.

The game lets you manage every of a choice of 30 football teams, with all the inherent trials and tribulations of the game.

This is NOT a quick game that you can load up when you want a break from the session — load this one up and you won't finish it until the season.

Having selected your team you can choose to tell any of your players either a bank loan, save the game (which I have had limited success with), release an earlier game or go onto practice mode.

If you decide to go into the match you are shown your team's strategy, which is along with those of the opposition, at which point you can re-arrange your players, taking care though with low energy.

and so on, and inserting others.

When you are happy with the changes that you have made the game starts and a running score is printed up as the game progresses (usually there is no option to turn off the screen, so it is best to have it in the game).

The unique stats and results of other league matches are shown along with your fixtures for the week, and the game returns to play mode.

The program repeats for 14 league matches and however many FA Cup rounds you play. I have only won the FA Cup once but I can recommend doing so for purely financial reasons. I believe my share of the gate was one hundred thousand pounds.

Players are detailed as attackers, defenders or midfield players, and are allotted certain attributes: quick (0-5) and energy (0-20). They are then valued at a level based upon their skill, and all the information can be called up in tabular form by the touch of a button.

To sum up then, the game is a delight for anyone with a love of football. If you are not of that ilk, but can like the sound of the game, then I would recommend it as it is programmed really and pleasantly.

James O'Brien



Combat Air Patrol

Program Combat Air Patrol
Developer 12th Occupation Road
Genre Combat, War
Version DOS 3.0

WITH 150+ REAL flight simulations already available for the Dragon, it is interesting to check out a new one and see how it compares with the rest. Unfortunately, C.A.P. doesn't compare too well. It is fairly unresponsive (but it is mostly in BASIC and so lacks a certain speed and responsiveness).

There are three phases you can choose from: Patrol, Landing and Refuelling. You begin in Patrol mode (though initially your undercarriage is down despite the fact that

you're travelling at over 800 mph and at around 3 000 feet), so when patrolling that the combat sequences take place, with enemy aircraft appearing at random. In your own eighties, you had to memorise the rules such as: 'No dog-fight with these you have to jettison and two missiles through the sound and graphics are both rather tame unfortunately.'

Proceeding, it takes you into the refuelling sequence where you're told to jettison weight and speed you right along before being allowed to try to line up your Tomcats with a tanker in a separate little graphics sequence.

The Landing routine also

uses graphics for review, which is well in Dragon.

Overall it is a little forgetful, though it is the best version of the game this columnist has ever reviewed.

The playing area is surrounded by a wavy line which increases the difficulty to a certain extent. The player is limited if you inadvertently fall out of it. After passing some rather good programs from Cable Software, I was a little disappointed with this game. I wasn't really very impressed with it and I think it would soon become very tedious. The difficulty is rather linear or less the same throughout the game and it's not too difficult to avoid the laser beams, even in the last mode. Once you clear one screen, it's up to more laser beams and so on and so on.

Perhaps the game is an improvement on Dragon games however, but unless you're heavily into modelling this is hardly one I would recommend. Once you clear one screen, it's up to more laser beams and so on and so on.

John Bowes



Printer Control

Program Printer Control
Developer Consultants & Associates
Genre Daytime
Version DOS 3.0/3.5
Price £19.95

McGOWAN Consultants is a new name to Dragon software and if their first offering is anything to go by then it is a name that is going to become quite familiar. Printer Control can best be described as a powerful wordprocessor with even more powerful controls. How the little is ported.

The many instructions merely give some clue to the power of the software — the whole had been prepared using a standard version of the program. Printer Control which is written entirely in machine code, implements linebuffering and automatically adjusts itself to work on either a Dragon 32 or a Dragon 64 or 128 or 386 mode. It is certainly nice to see at least some software writing, which hasn't added a bug to the entire PAPER when it is possible. When 128 you get 10 kb free for your text and when 64 you get 256 kb of

Amoebae

Program Home Base Cable Software, Finsbury Park, London N7 9UD 2091. Price: £8.95

I CAN remember some time ago now, putting down a microscope in the biology laboratory at school and watching amoebae swimming around lamely, occasionally bursting some tasty pieces of material that happened to fall their way. Home Base is a bit like that, only the amoebae are renamed laser bolts, and you control a laser beam that moves amongst them, trying to eat them.

A joystick is used to control movement and it is important to avoid touching the laser bolts as your energy level drops when this happens. You have three domes to start with, and in the slow version of the game you can hide in the Home base until there is a pause to move on. The time you can remain in the home

gives you a heading and height for ten before you can jump your Tomcat (nowe past) down in the Landing Bay on bottom left of the main screen. This means given you all the results you need including altitude, fuel supply, speed and heading, though the heading is simply the eight compass points rather than a specific bearing. There is no factor for speed, you're always deemed to be flying level apart from when landing, and to play C.A.P. you need two joysticks — one acts as the throttle the second as flight control, very complicated.

A lot of programming effort has obviously gone into the software, but the responses are not bad, able to make it easy — descending from 2 500 feet (at which height the combat sequences come into effect) down to a suitable height to commence landing takes forever. An interesting exercise for the programme, but not for the potential buyer who better stuff's available from the likes of Heaven and Monsters.

Mike Gerrard



A DRAGON + A DOT MATRIX PRINTER + PRINTER CONTROL

THE RESULT?

YOU WILL NEVER TOUCH A TYPEWRITER AGAIN!

PRINTER CONTROL represents a new approach to software - giving the computer what it really wants!

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Correspondence? Just a word processor. Form? It's a graphics designer. Report? How high? Formulas? Both pictures or numbers? Can't type high your need? Use the User-Defined character facility and print your Register.

PRINTER CONTROL was written for the user who is an expert user wanting to do anything on the market to save his time that is really wasted - User-Friendly design and control of the printer. It has never been described so easily as "Prestisble SOFTWARE!"

If you do not agree with this description you have or purchased prestisble software!

PRINTER CONTROL is designed to make both end product creation in 800 and 1600 printer models and a lot of fun.

The printer will operate with no modifications, on the DRAGON 32, the DRAGON 64 in 12 mode, and the DRAGON 64 in 16 mode. In 16 mode it will run the newest printer series. The printer operates in the same

FORMAT MODE

In this mode you are able to load, save, modify, create, edit and print text files. You can set print resolution down to 100 printer dots for individual letters, to 1000 dots and print each character, to enlarge print up to eight times magnification and to access all the characters of your printer.

You are also able to print all or part of the screen screen and memory of up to 16K bytes. Other features include left and right justify, block selection, copy/paste, multiple screens with scrolling, automatic defining, left border, centered, centering of headings and page numbers, multiple prints - with a page per copy, multi-line graphics, character strings, search/reprint prints and variable page and line spacing.

FIGURE MODE

This allows you to load in a page you have made from the screen screen of one of your own programs and then change the graphics, and text to fit, convert all or part of it, and save parts of it and to print any or all of it or to copy these graphics either horizontally or vertically. Any picture changed can be saved, modified, loaded or loaded back into your own program.

Character, line-drawing graphics can be combined with each other.

All required parts of PRINTER control are automatically compiled in a FREE SOURCE and parameter file SOURCE. You can then generate. If it is not the right size it does not fit you have an error. If you are not satisfied then you may ask an field without argument. If you have a problem then I am there to sort it out for you. What more could you ask?

PRINTER CONTROL costs just over £100.00 for the DRAGON 32

MacGowan Consultants

01208 740000

6, Bruce Grove, Cheshunt, Nr. Broxbourne, Herts, EN9 2PR

PRINTER CONTROL is a character based system which runs in 32 K bytes for text files on the DRAGON 32, 160 or the 64. There are two options resource constrained versions would contain details of their 64K with their software.

100,000 lines of PRESTISBLE SOFTWARE

Dragon 64 is 80% mode only. The 16k palette is supported with the basic resolution of 1280x. The program will not allow you to use the special port on a 64 in 32k mode (why?).

The final thing that impresses you is a menu of 11 options. These allow you to save, load and merge font files or enter one of the program's other modes. Selecting the EDIT mode changes the screen to a 40x24 column display. The lower two lines are used for prompts and commands. The program is very user friendly and always prompts for the next type of command as required. In this mode the keyboard has no action on most of the keys. Unfortunately the Del key before a key starts to repeat (which has to be at least the last four types) and after a while it becomes frustrating to have to keep deleting the extra characters typed.

The character set supports the 42 column display but particularly clever and tidy short of that offered by other packages such as Corel painter's PC/256 program despite the fact that it is only 42 columns wide. There is no on

screen wordwrapping or line ending that is not done on the keyboard only.

The usual sort of cursor controlled screen editor commands are available such as insert, delete, find and change as well as block move, copy and delete. A powerful feature of the program is to have up to nine user defined strings. These could be a phrase or word that is to be used often throughout the file or a command string to for example convert files etc.

Another new feature is the Address Book. This is a number of lists enclosed between the ESC-AB and ESC-AL characters (ESC is obtained by using shift-right arrow). These lists will be printed as a formatted address on the right of the paper. This is a useful option and eliminates a lot of fiddling around with the cursor. All of the normal commands such as searching, or line underline and underline are entered as one or two letter commands following the ESC character. The effects of the commands are not shown on the screen.

The big difference between this program and any decent wordprocessor is its con-

tral over Epson type printers with graphic modes. Text can be printed in normal size or two four or eight times normal size in two character sets with the option to define your own characters. The printers bit image mode is used for the 32x32 pixels per character a sensible Graphics character can also be printed.

The Printer Control program handles all the complicated business of sending the right graphic codes to the printer — all it needs to know are the appropriate control codes for your particular printer to either let images (mode enlarged) and characters (mode standard) and so on. These can all be changed to suit your printer using the first option on the menu menu. It is worth pointing out however that the program is only compatible with printers that use the Epson type 8 bit mode graphic mode and will not work with the 7 bit standard graphic mode type of printer.

Finally not content with being a powerful wordprocessor Printer Control has a Paint Mode which allows you to set PC/256 4 screens, based on four tape. The picture can be rotated a single pixel at a time in all four

directions and can be added to it and blocks of 1x160 pixels can be rotated through 90 degrees. All of this is done at a copy of the loaded program so the original is quite safe until the changes are complete and the mode is ended by pressing Enter. The screen can then be restored to how it was at the start in one of four states horizontally or vertically.

Printer Control is a program anyone with a suitable printer should not be without as it is a reasonable value for money offered. A free advice and information service is provided for registered owners of the software to support its growing user base. A special version of the program will soon be released which is aimed primarily at correspondence work using double density half height and one pass right justification for faster printouts. The version will again be priced at £15. It would be nice to see a disk edition of the program produced as this could offer much larger files.

Brian Dodge



Poor fuels

Program: Doctor Spaceman
Quicksilver Software, 67 Old
Mincing, Fleet, Bournemouth,
Hants, BH1 6PH. Price:
£19.95

AT TheD recent 6000 show I spoke to Quicksilver and found them a pleasant company who knew that their games were not original and were proud of it. I liked that.

This is the version of a certain Spectrum game which involved a man jumping around on alien planets and collecting fuel for his spaceship. There are five different alien planets, several space ships and a difficulty level which controls how many aliens appear on a planet.

The scenario is this: There exists somewhere in the universe an amazing and expanding universe of plants where spaceships at first are free floating. You land on many of these planets, and most basically catch the fuel that precipitates from the top of the screen and land it onto your spaceship and when you stop it is full of fuel you land and race off

To get you in this task you need your handy jet pack strapped to your back and your super neutron blaster held in your hands to slay the marauding alien aliens that might happen to get in your way.

The game plays easily and looks nice. The routines with it are in order of importance: 1) It is too fast! 2) It is too jerky! 3) The graphics are nowhere near as good as the Spectrum version (and those are 16k versions for that!) 4) Every time you play or land on a planet you have to hear the over worked sound of the Star Wars theme (80s come to me) of John Williams over and over again, regardless of how many characters that are left. Please, for god's sake, change that!

I am sure that many software companies will reply and say this game despite my warnings is well for a better version to be available, but then who can you beat?

Ascle Ortaurus



Dickie's dented

Program: Doctor S. Doc
Quicksilver Software, 67 Old
Mincing, Fleet, Bournemouth,
Hants, BH1 6PH. Price:
£19.95

short and generally with little to control.

The tune in the background is a computer's high-note comprising of several discordant notes, played in short succession for over — very dull.

When you first play Doc's Willy that game could be right to go as although it have been rather dull it could be lots worse.

One question though what is about this programme, of these games that bugs them to name their characters in this way? We now have a Miner called Willy and a construction worker called Collier. My head pounds at the thought of the name of the next one.

It is bad for Quicksilver that Software Projects has just released Jet Jim only a few weeks ago. They would have had a winner but as it is they just have second place and by miles than a laugh.

Ascle Ortaurus



Semigraphics 24

Ever wanted to design colourful screen displays — with text as well? A C Daniel shows you how

If YOU want to make up an elaborate screen display using all nine colours with text but with high resolution then this program is for you.

The resolution of S.G.24 is 1920 x 320 so your line length will consist of 1920 horizontal strokes although for speed you can paint in thicker blocks including all the low resistance graphic blocks and the picture can be saved as tape at anytime.

Once the computer is set to produce S.G.24 the screen cannot be altered so all the instructions have to be written out separately (so here they are — quite a lot I'm afraid but I think you will find the flexibility and ease of use of the program well worthwhile. Apart from the usual mix of the clearing colour all the commands are made for producing a single entry. After long periods of required however, as there are a lot of alternatives for the computer to scan.

One problem of using S.G.24 is that it takes a lot of time to clear the screen in any colour except orange (it is easier to use the clearing process to establish the main foreground and background colours).

Clearing the screen

Clearing begins at the colour command by entering the standard colour number as soon as the program is run. To change the colour or stop the clearing process this will clear the display and execute other commands. You may also press 'C' to stop the clearing (just the end of the colour line) or press the number of the colour you wish to change to, to restart the current line in that colour.

To speed up the clearing (decreasing the above command press 'Z').

You may also clear all or part of the screen at any time by pressing 'CLEAR'. In this case the clearing will start from the position of the cursor in the currently requested colour.

Drawing

On completing the clearing you will see a floating cursor in the top left hand corner. This can be moved with the arrow keys in two ways:

1. Successively printing in the colour of your choice by pressing 'G' and the number of the colour you require.
2. Non-successively by pressing 'F' before moving it.

You may also move the cursor diagonally by pressing 'G' to bottom left (A), (to top left), 'H' to top right), 'M' (to bottom right).

The second cursor

A second cursor can be introduced by pressing 'G'. This can be moved with the arrow keys and then superimposed in fixed position in relation to the first cursor by pressing 'M'. It can be moved counter-

clockwise or non-destructively just like the first cursor and has a number of uses:

1. Used with the first cursor you can use it as a copying tool.

2. Press 'I' and the space between the two cursors will be filled either by a horizontal line if the cursors are on the same level by a vertical line if one cursor is on the top of the other.

In all other cases when the second cursor is lower than the first the space between them will be coloured.

To move the second cursor press 'B'. Note that it is 'B' pressed when any one cursor is in use the remainder of the horizontal line is filled with the current colour.

To write text:

Press 'P' and then type in the required characters. Only standard non-extended font can be used and each character is printed so that it falls on to the current position (non-select position).

To cancel text writing press 'T'.

To write one line below another it is necessary to move the cursor 12 spaces downwards.

Setting specific cursor positions

Pressing 'T' moves the cursor to the bottom left corner.

Pressing 'G' remembers the current cursor position and this can be returned to by pressing 'W' whenever necessary.

The second set of commands

By pressing the spacebar you can scan a second set of commands and a blockbox appears at the bottom right corner to mark what you are doing this.

The number keys also refer not to colours but to the thickness of the line you draw — a setting from one to seven times thick. If you press this however, you get a standard 16x16 pixel graphics block correctly positioned in line writing. The letters Q, W, E, R, T, Y, U, I, O, P and A, S, D, F, G, H, K, L give you all the different sorts of graphic blocks. The most important one is Q which gives a BLACK block and A which gives a plain colour one. The others can use a special font routine which will automatically move the cursor from left to right drawing out full user-specified blocks which can be changed by pressing the appropriate key. Press 'G' to start the line and 'T' to cancel it.

To return to the original set of commands press 'P'.

When drawing diagonally a block can be drawn with the cursor either at the top or bottom of the intended block. The normal procedure is at the top so that each subsequent block starts one line above or below the previous one. To move the cursor to the bottom return to the first set of commands and press 'T'. The only keys that can be used to move the cursor after pressing 'T' are Z, M and J. The others produce anomalous results. To cancel 'T', press 'K'.

Text saving

To save your design on tape press 'T'. A T appears at the bottom right corner if you accidentally press T you they cancel it by pressing 'T'.

Otherwise press 'R' to record or 'S' to search for a design. The saving does not concern MOTION, GROW or CHP so you must either set them to recorder (programmatically) or you can add in the commands (Lines 1000-1770).

When the tape process is finished the cursor begins to flash again. Having a cleared clear screen it is the quickest way of starting a new design.

Printing

The period has been designed for a fax colour printer poster such as the CIPER 120. Press ENTDR and a P appears at the bottom right corner. If ENTDR is accidentally pressed it may be cancelled by pressing 'P'. Otherwise press P to proceed.

Text is handled fast. The printout is extremely slow but to speed up as much as possible it will proceed no faster than the lowest point the cursor has reached and start no colour above the highest colour number that has been used in the drawing. If you wish a printout use only the first four colours and thick (yellow is left as a border).

If you load a program from tape to print directly you must move the cursor to the lowest point you need to print out and press the colour number of the highest colour used. This period can only handle print (yellow/golden) blocks. But it would be too complex to avoid this limitation.

The listing

I have put PGM lines in to guide you and there is also a tape saving routine. Type 'H' instead of F1000-1770 to use these.

Having given so many instructions I only wish to make one point about the listing. I was once with a Total cartridge which makes copying similar lines very easy. If you do not possess this you may prefer to put groups of pixels into blocks such as PGM A=1,T=0,G=1,P=1000-1024,THEN D=1,M=1,DAT. Don't forget to DAT them either lines suitable for the treatment are 2000-200, 1800-1800, 2000-2000 and 2000-2010. The longer and rather repetitive lines does make it easier to understand the function of each line. However

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Disk Detective

From D'Adda's doctor's office to clinical trials with daratumumab, Dragon DOG: an interview

Hope we are soon. Dodge Street Station (June Dragon Company) and other defense Dragon CO's teams - an excellent "Doc Doctor" to troubleshoot, inspect and change the contents of a disk I have called "DISK DETECTIVE" rather than DISK DOCTOR as it contains several facilities and was actually commissioned some time ago (before I would have past power) for a Doc Doctor no-corrective problems I had with one particular disk at that time.

The intention had been to develop a site plan, a decadal task catalogue and "wild card" task maintenance for the K-10, D-10 and D-10A — but all this work has been done since recent communications with letter D — either lack of time continues to postpone

Having only one son in the family

facility. I have quickly tagged on the "Facility" facility for the article. I won't give you details of the directory layout etc. as I have a new one section posted on Oregon DOS available from [Oregon DOS](http://www.oregonstate.edu/~mccormic/OS/) available from [Oregon State University](http://www.oregonstate.edu/~mccormic/OS/) (see their regularly posted several and I am strongly in favour of supporting those who continue to support us).

As regards the programs listing PMS lines, more added lines for documentation purposes for you. They can be printed — as can the "PRINTOUT" (though I wouldn't). The programs without extra listing, PMS the BASIC language and the programs (as indicated in step "12" above for C64) by name (BASIC facility number) — lines 3000 — if you want it all ready for use.

-Good luck!

Practical example

The program reads any physical block of 256 bytes that a disk is accessed in. **SDC256** stores all in memory and displays the data on the screen in "pages" of 64 bytes (page update using the update arrow keys). An EDIT facility is available which allows bytes of the sector currently in memory to be changed and for the updated sector to be written to the disk. **Options** available in both EDIT and WRITE modes are:

- ① **Jump** — click on a sector currently in memory to make it the **pointer**
- ② **Forward** — read and display next sector on the disk
- ③ **Backwards** — read and display previous sector on the disk

11. New track and sector number — for pointing around the disk fast.

Additional **WEM mode options**
up/down arrow keys page the 64 byte display backwards/forwards
E switch to Edit mode

Additional **EDIT mode options:**
paskey is the same as **View** access that there is a left arrow pointer says not the "current" byte)

alt/ins keys move pointer to appropriate

C Change byte — switches to **CHANGE** mode — see below

8 Shows the current state of the sector in memory buffer. Because of the possibility/error that the head could switch upon your previous data, here further prompts/queries? Y answers before writing commands!

V Switch to **View** mode (reads from the disk so can be used to read a sector if you have made a mess of the current in memory copy when attempting to edit it)

CHANGE MODE operation

(arrow pointer changes to inverted double) **ENTER** key — moves to **EDIT** mode all the arrow keys — move pointer no required

0-9 A-F — change byte currently pointed to (changes the byte in the current memory copy of sector only at this stage to copy) (= writes the updated sector to disk, exit the mode (control-C key) and use the G option and so on)

The byte is changed as per carriage type about (you will quickly see what I mean if you try it — it's easier difficult to explain but I try)

On selecting a valid hex character the current right hand hex character of the byte (= least significant nibble) overwrites the current left hex character of the byte (= most significant nibble) and the left hex character becomes the new least significant nibble which means that it is replace a byte currently containing the ASCII character '5' (hex 30) with 'A' (hex 41). I would

now be seeing 41
press A " 26 becomes 54 (letter 'P')
press F " 54 " 41 (letter 'A')

The pointer is only moved on by using the arrow keys so you can have unlimited tabs at getting the correct result if you are not too familiar with hex codes (the ASCII display to the right of the 4x4 byte block is also updated with every key press)

Press the **<ENTER>** key to revert to the **EDIT** mode from where the **SAVE SECTOR** option can be called

As recommended by Brian, backup the problem disk and mess about with the copy disk until having typed in the **DISK DECTECT PROGRAM** **SAVED1.D1** (with a file name), **LOAD** it put the copy of the problem disk in the drive and **RDMS** detect. It automatically commences in **WEM** mode at Track 20, Sector 0 (the start of the **DISK1** directory). **Alt/ins** having entered **SAVE** will find an entry similar to **SECTOR DUMPS1.D1** where I deliberately saved this program without a filename — an entry of **DUMPS** preceded by a null (00) bytes. The entry can now be edited to insert a filename

Switch to **EDIT mode (press E)**

Switch to **Change mode (press C)**

Move the pointer to the first character of the 8 character filename field (in the example press right arrow key once)

Press the **INS** key (one letter is sufficient to receive normal DOS service) (pressed 4 times I == 'A')

Press **<ENTER>** to revert to **Edit** mode. Save the updated sector (press **S** Y in response to prompt) and **DoIt** your uncle — normal DOS service is resumed

Do it out of this program and **RDMS** or whatever as you wish

Have fun (warning) at your data areas if you are fortunately not in need of the **EDT** facility — ps

```
408 IF S=18 AND T=09 THEN S=11 T=09 D010128
409 S=19+11 D010128+10H(S=11 T=09+1)
410 G010128
411 2F00-1 AND T=09 THEN S=18, T=09, G010128
412 S=0-11 IF(GX1) THEN S=10 T=0-1
413 G010128
414 ROM CHANGE BYTE
415 PTR8=CHRS(127): PTR9=127+00:31+03+10+321,,PTR8,,G010128
518 K=0-31H(YN): PTR8=127
519 1PTR8=CHRS(127): PTR9=127+10: PTR10=128+10+31+10+321,,PTR8,,G010128
520
521 ROM CHECK FOR S=0-9,A-F FIRST
522 PRAESET8=1-40
523 IF AND THE SAME
524 IF A<16 THEN&40
525 AND-7
526 IF A>9 AND A<16 THEN&40
527 PIR NOT HEX 80 CHECK FOR ARROW KEYS
528 G010128
529 PIR8=10H(S=11 T=09+1)
530 ROM CHANGE BYTE IN WORK AREA&DISPLAY
531 ROM PIR8 RIGHT HAND SIDE OF BYTE TO LEFT & PUT HEX VALUE ENTERED IN PIR8 IN
532 IT (IN PIR8)
533 PIR8=10H(S=11 T=09+1)R8811-11
534 ROM SAVE RIGHT HAND NEIGHBOUR AT THE NEW LEFT HAND NUMBER 1=119 CURRENT W
535 ULE(119)
536 S=10 PIR 10H+1A
537 ROM 1STORE UPDATED BYTE VALUE IN WORK AREA
538 PIR8 (10H+11)CH3+11H80-1-11,,H4
539 ROM UPDATE SCREEN DISPLAY
540 PIR8 11524*(CH3+11H80),PIR8 11534*(CH3+11H80)
541 PIR11122+CH3+11H80,,H4
542 IF S=18+32 THEN K=0, " ELSE ROMCH8 (BH4)
543 PIR11122+CH3+11H80,,H4
544 G010128
545 ROM PRINTER DUMP ROUTINE 10 LINES!
546 G010128,PRINT1440,, " dumping to printer in progress"
547 DEC=0:G010128,PRINT1440,0:0:FOR I=0 TO 255 STEP 64:G010128,PRINT1440,PRINT1440,SPACER
548 BY C=255
```


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Zooming in on the screen

Peter Whittaker developed this program to help him study the art of graphic character creation.

It should be obvious that whenever I try to draw graphic characters for a game on my Dragon the result falls short of the results achieved by some games written although I have not been able to improve my own artistic ability I have written the

The **BASIC** program consists of a machine code routine which will enlarge a quarter section of the screen to full screen size (see screen dump). The process can be repeated endlessly but after several enlargements the original pixels will have enlarged to a size greater than that taken up by the whole screen area.

Program alterations

When Right the program will display its MENU screen. This lists all the options available and can be recalled at any time.

by pressing the <alt> key. When displaying the Main screen, the program will wait for a key press before continuing on to display the graphics screen. The program is set up to load and save graphics screens to and from disk (Press <M> by itself, <alt> <C> by itself), but this can be easily altered to load from memory.

(TAP) PATCH) or to draw a picture called for example change Line 200
POLY FOR A=1 TO 10 CIRCLE
(END (555) END (1911) END
(END (1911) END NEXT A)

The program will then place a Quarter-Screen box over the picture. This is the target for ZOOM. The box can be moved around the screen by pressing any of the arrow keys. The vertical arrows will move the box one pixel up or down if I have not pressed both the shift key than the box will move up or down ten pixels. Pressing the left or right arrows will move the box eight pixels to the sides. The program will not let the box move past the edge of the screen, but will keep it within the screen boundary. When the box is targeted over the area to be measured, press the <ENTER> key and the program will print in the file area. Since the screen has been refreshed, it can

```

* ZINCHI ' CH THE '92 *
18 PWORD:1 PCLS:SCREEN1,0,90*1
29 PR: 'BH119 91, BL14604,C2,PSH4-5,71
      R598P44203E28P203G2L28P64213E28
      2P203G2L28P6U5E2P2P2H405E28P2F205
      .
39 FOR RH1 TO 39 OPNU18*8+STRCHR18*8
      NEXT
48 POLDERS-CLERK298 25000 CU=9216
45 MODE=8
58 'XXXXXXXXX$CREEK BACKUP$XXXXXXXXX
68 DATA 149,120,15,142,198,209,296
      129,237,161,148,36,8,37,247,57
      ,142,12,8,161,142,188,209,236,16
      1,237,129,148,36,8,37,247,57
78 FOR RH1 TO 34 PERO B1 PORE25000+8
      ,8 HEPT
79 'XXXXXXXXX$CREEK BACKUP$XXXXXXXXX
88 CLS PRINT#18,B,CHEK1001,"200H MEM
      UP",CHEK1001 PRINT#182,STRINGS1
      1,121: PRINT PR#17%,,RETURN T
      O OPTIONS1 L1ST H,,L0RD HE
      M,SCREEN FROM DISC B,,DUP S
      CREEK TO DISC B,,SAVE
      SCREEN TO HI-MEMORY, S,,REST
      DISC HI-MEMORY SCREEN1
99 PRINT1'142,,SELECT COLOUR SET,'
      PRINT1'3/4,,COLOUR OR MONOCHROM
      E'
100 PRINT1'OPTION1,,MOVE TARGET TO
      %,,ENTER1,,ZOOM IN OR TR
      ROGET,
110 PRINT#18428,18NY KEY1'Read?#18

```



Screen shot of ...

Be enlarged again and again simply by selecting the box and pressing the **ENTER** key.

If you are loading your pictures into them it would be a wise procedure to load the screen each time you wanted to examine it. To examine this I have included a screen display routine. Pressing **C12>** will save the current picture to

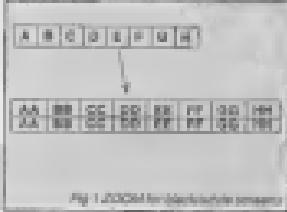


Fig 1.20034 in black/white format

high memory and pressing the **<C1>** will restore it to the screen.

The number keys from **0-9** to **<C1>** control the screen colour set and the display mode. Pressing **C12>** selects SCREEN 0 while the **<C1>** selects SCREEN 1. Pressing **C10>** selects MODE 1, and **<C1>** will select MODE 4. There will be a short delay when changing from MODE 3 to 4 and vice versa until the computer changes the machine code used by the screen programs (see below). Pressing any other key will change the colour of the targeting box to ensure that it can be seen whatever the colour of the background.

Program explanations

There is a difference in the screen colour of the Dragon 32, 64 and 128 colour versions. The 64 and 128 colour mode require 8 bits each whilst the 32 colour mode they only need one bit (bits 0, 16, 24 and 32). This means that a different machine code routine is needed for going in on colour screens (ASSEMBLER 2003 MODE 3/1). However, in both cases we need to expand the contents of one BYTE to 8 bits. As it is the easiest to explain I will deal with the two colour mode colour first (ASSEMBLER 2003 MODE 4/1).

A BYTE is loaded into the A register and then manipulated into the B register (Fig. 2). Fig. 4 shows the effects of the different machine code instructions used to get 1 bit out of the A register into the BYTE

```

CUHCU=329 GOTO 329
288 IF P=CHR$113 THEN IF VY86 THE
H CUHCU=329 GOTO329
295 *SCREEN200 ROUTINE
300 IF P=CHR$133 THEN 308
318 P=INT((U*256^2)+H)/256^2
320 P=POKE32802 A POKE32803-B EHEC329
61 GOTO3148
329 FOR RH1 TO 4 PCOPY R44 TO A NEXT
1
348 R=CUH2216 XEQ Y86
359 IF R=3148 THEN RH=32 V=Y+1 GOTO
3358 ELSE R=R86
360 LINEYH,Y=30*127,Y=951 PSET,B
378 GOTO3178
375 *SCREEN1-H-MEMORY SCREEN1
376 IF R=1 THEN SOUND188,1 FOR A
=1 TO 4 PCOPY R44 TO A NEXT R
383 EC 25881 GOTO 148
396 IF R=81 THEN SOUND188,1 EHEC2
5819 GOTO 148
406 IF R=11 THEN FOR RH1 TO 4 PCO
PY R44 TO A NEXT DLS PRINT#425
"SAVE SCREEN" PRINT#255 " (HPU
"FILENAME" R4 EVERSE 3072 7216
412 GOTO3128
418 *SCREEN100 COLOURSET
426 Z=H1 IF Z=5 THEN 424
428 COLOR 2 LINEYH,Y=30*127,Y=953
PSET,B SOUND188 1
430 GOTO 178
476 *SCREEN100 COLOURSET

```

```

480 DRTR 8E 24 8,19 8E 7 0 AF,18 8F
7D,4E 8E 00,07 7D,47 8D 1E,87
85,21,87 21,80 17 87 89 29,87 A
1 7A,70,4E 28,89,31 89 28 29 85
16,18 8D,24,8 29 87 28,80 2 80
1 39 47 86,47 85,86,7D,47 47 2
6 47 86,87,7D,47 39
479 RESTORE FOR R=1 TO 34 READ B8 I
EXT
488 FOR R=0 TO 1 TO 30 FOR READ B8 PO
MER PLOC$H+88$ NEXT P
499 P=POKE 1 POCODE=0
500 FOR RH1 TO 4 PCOPY RH4 TO A NEXT
1 A
510 GOTO129
520 *SCREEN1-H 200H#1111111111111111
530 DRTR 8E,24 8 18 8E 0 8,86 10 87
7D,29,86,86,80,1E,87,8E 21 87
21,80 17 87 86,88 87 81 78 7D 2
8,24 8D 21,89,28,89 99 10 18 8C
124,8 25 84 29 8C,4,87,7D,36,44
156,57,78,7D,8E 26,89 29
548 RESTORE FOR R=1 TO 180 READ B8
IEXT
550 FOR R=H7D01 TO H7D03 READ B8
POVER V="H"+88$ NEXT R
558 P=POKE 1 POCODE=4
570 FOR RH1 TO 4 PCOPY RH4 TO A NEXT
1 A
589 GOTO128
599 *(C)1985 BY PETER WHITTAKER

```


Resources

Chris Davies-Griffiths in South Yorkshire
The idea of the game is to rearrange a string of nine numbers which are usually shuffled, into their correct sequence 1-9.
You should be able to do this in less than

as possible resources are concentrated within the economy.

Disk explorations

Peter Whittaker contacted the club website

UNLAC CASSETTES disks do not provide a great deal of space in their content for listing what is on them. They are however very fast. The test programs which are here presented make full use of this advantage.

The first program is a 'Disk Explorer'. This allows any disk to be explored and listed to the screen sector by sector (block by track). The sectors can either be printed as strings, or listed as a sequence of ASCII codes. This program can be used for exploring how the Dragon stores programs on disks.

The second program "Disk Master Plus" is for keeping a list of all your programs from all your disks on one master disk.

The program works by reading the directory track on each disk and storing it as a file on the master disk. There is enough room on one master disk to store track of the programs on a hundred or more other disks, so it can prove very useful indeed.

Figure 4.1. Explanation.

The Dragon 300 has 40 tracks of 18 sectors each. Tracks 20 and 11 are reserved for the directory and directory backup. Each sector can be read by SREAD1 TRACK SECTOR [0]:19. The strings R3 and T3 are both 128 characters long.

When RUN the program displays a menu of all functions and asks for an address in RAM and SECTION number. Subsequent reading through the disk, is achieved by pressing the left or right arrow keys to move through the sectors and the up or down arrows to change track. Pressing the 'Play' at any time will load 32 and 33 to the first ADDRESS bytes. Pressing 'Exit' returns to the menu.

Program #2: Explanation

This directory itself is copied by `SYNAPSE` (2) A `SYN` command, to the `target` directory.

The strings `AB` and `BC` are decoded into substrings of 105 characters, each of which is used to refer to one particular stored file disk.

The first character of the substituting group, the nature of the ligand, is the key to whether the Cr^{2+} ion is a pentacoordinated hexaquo complex (123) or a distorted hexaquo complex with an oxygen atom directly bridging and L^{II} in the axial and equatorial positions. There is little agreement on the hexaqua

The last eight characters option the **Na** name. If the name is less than eight letters the extra spaces are filled with **pass**.

DEFINITION OF PRIMARY PIPE FILTERS.

Model concerning the type (object) in Photo between HHS, HSC, HSC and DMT

Finally the length of the program can be found by LENGTH=(ASC(MIDS\$)+ASC(RIGHTS\$)-1)-10.056+ASC(LEFT\$)-11.

Function 1 will display the directory of the disk currently in the drive. To either the screen or the printer. It sent to the screen the listing in two columns, and it is the reverse order.

Function 3 copies the directory of the data at the source and moves it as a file on the master disk. If you are updating an already stored record on the master disk, it is necessary to free ROLL file and record (function 4).

Program 3 asks for the name of a program to be found. It then searches all the lines stored on the master disk and then lists all the programs which contain the sought name. It gives both the full name of the program found and the disk on which it was saved. For example the lines 221 would list

Out — Outset — I Prop — KATZMIL
Out — Outset — I Prop — DEHNHOFF

One — Games — 5 Prog — DADDIE
One — Money Prog — TIEH

Function `isalpha` for the name of a disk

the names on the master card, and I have highlighted all the programs started on the disk.

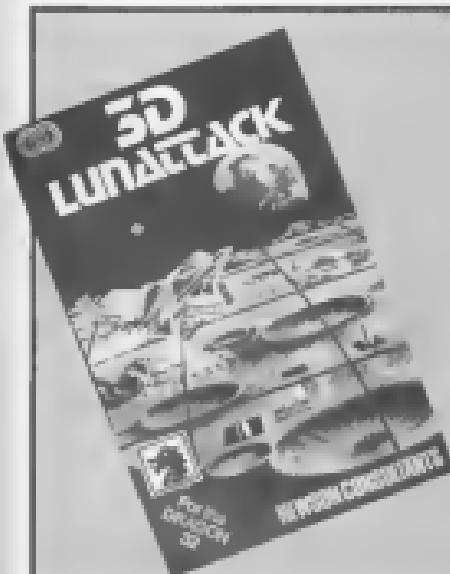
Procedure that for KILLing off one recording recordings. Once the name of the file to be deleted has been entered there is a list of all the songs during which this KILL can be activated by pressing **Shift** key. The

Project and Task Status in the Team

a directory has been KILLED it cannot be recovered, so be careful.

The menu is displayed before and after all functions. Prompts are provided

The program will work with other programs stored on the master disk but the number of seconds one can keep is increased if one keeps the master disk for the



THIS month, 20 readers have a chance to win a copy of Hewson Consultants' 3D Lavalback in a special competition — all you have to do is answer the simple questions, and complete the crossword.

- 2 How far away is the moon from the Earth? ...
- 3 What are the moons of Mars called? ...
- 4 What was the name of the Greek moon goddess? ...

5 In what film was a strange monolith found buried on the moon?
As a tiebreaker, in 12 words or less, say why you would like to win a trip to the moon.

Send your entries to Hewson Competition,
Dragori User, 12/13 Little Newport Street,
London WC3H 7PP. Competition closes
September 1.

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

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Address: _____



MIKE GERRARD'S ADVENTURE TRAIL

SEVERAL letters from readers recently have bemoaned the lack of Dragon soft cards in the shape and adventure writer particularly bally at the respect with most distributors giving the impression they wouldn't touch rock-only adventures when wearing rubber gloves. Other readers have asked about backgammon adventures, such as *Mr. Macmillan Adams of Shetland* in the West Midlands, so continuing the key subjects I'll have a look this month at three other (but interesting) titles available from Touchstone for only £1.99 each (plus £1.50 P&P per order).

Gallible guards

First *Guardians* gives you the comparatively simple task of preventing Wang Wan-ai and you do this by stopping a mad general from launching a nuclear missile. You begin the game because the missile has a virus and a good man would have will provide you with the means of getting past the rather gallible guards on the road.

The adventure isn't exactly thrifty on its budget, for example look at the last few lines which contains only a now saying: 'Watch your step on the stairs but it's not at all bad. You can wander round various safety rooms, computer rooms and offices. Hopefully finding the secret stairs up to the command centre and beyond that through the obligatory maze to the launch control room.'

Here at size-there you're faced with a general's buttons but you then notice as to what the outcome of pressing each button might be. You might be doing the mad general's work for him, going down in history as the person who started World War III but if you don't do something you're in trouble anyway as the general himself turns up after a certain number of moves (surprisingly dependent on which of the three pull levers you choose) so this one's a race against the clock.

There's no (start) option but it's an unexpected BASIC program with over 12K of memory left so the more adventurous adventures might be incompatible one of their own. By no means a heavyweight adventure but it should keep beginners entertained and published for quite a while and even the confirmed veteran experienced player might like to try it at that price.

The mistake shows that we adventurers obviously haven't been pulling our weight lately because there are still scores of undead creatures around the latest being Count Von Sturz. In his Mansion of Doom in Transylvania I thought we'd have names there as it by now but seemingly not and now the Count's a gimp and not-napped Queen Princess Marlene. Female adventurers must use their imagination and perhaps they're recovering some slightly horrendous past.

The Count's mansion is positively loaded with gimped ladies, broken windows, mirrors, and all the other trap-pings familiar to vampire hunters everywhere. There are also lots of rooms and this was my favorite of the Transylvanian titles. There are plenty of locations available to you, once on the various floors of the mansion and you're not faced with insurmountable problems before you're even started.

There's an early problem which is how to stop the candle blowing out when you reach the stairs leading to the lower levels, but you can forget about the candles and go upstairs instead where there are dozens and dozens of rooms. Hidden somewhere in one of these is a switch which you can examine to see how it's acting, move towards sunset (the time of which you're given elsewhere).

Ranald names

Also available for examination is a map but quite what it's a map of I don't know as it's written in Thanglatin as are many notes around the place, and I haven't yet figured out how to use my Thanglatin dictionary. There are various. With several rooms, rooms full of notes and scores of decaying flesh this is definitely not one to play while you're using your support but it's one you should try to look at as it's about the best Dragon Dracula adventure I've seen, using up almost all the available memory.

The last title this month is actually two for the price of one: *Shag* (which you might imagine is a case of escaping from a poison oil bath camp, though it's not the enemy you've got to watch out for because the camp has been destroyed and is about to be bombed by your own bomb in order to obliterate it) it was prior to last look to get yourself out of the Hot Blue, used to

welcome new prisoners, and then barged them about on the camp and instructed 'As you explore the camp you'll find and open areas in the camp, you are immediately reminded of your time running out by the sound of planes flying overhead from time to time.'

Baseball bat

In the second *Hot Blue* is also intriguing but it's rather sluggish and won't inspire within anyone of a pulse of having anything which I've been trying to up to all a nearby bucket. Through which I'd advise I'd manage if I'm not pure in any case I've found the power switch for the lamp but would the depressing quality have it a switched on or off? And what use is the baseball bat and the football? Sorry doesn't suggest a very substantive vocabulary (in fact none of these games do) and you'll have to make regular use of the exits EXAMINE with generated objects concerning concealing other objects.

Turn the lamp over and you've got this: the first puzzle here being what does the lamp mean? I've no idea but the adventure is unusual in as far as it's being the first one I can remember which takes place in a single location. The story is that your rich aunt has died and left her fortune to you provided you can find it. It has been hidden somewhere in the living room which is where the whole adventure seems to take place. There are three different areas of the living room that has sound so far unless there are secret passages (goodness, I've never seen them to have a door).

It doesn't have lots of ragged chairs, lamps and other everyday objects, and while a swaggers like *MCVII* I was not finding anything but nothing ever seemed to happen. There are lots of rooms (including a TV set that's shoving *Alien* and a picture of your own cat which I thought might protect me from a lurking *Alien* but it didn't).

There's also lots of dry humour hidden in the lame responses to some of the inputs. Example I've studied chess and you're into 'I' checkers with the cutters, while *LOCK*, *SHADOC* produces 'There goes the mad man'. These might don't sound very funny on the page, but they briefly give me a few laughs when I'd been hoping to another with help like 'If you want to

advertisers that is intriguing, then try this. I was pleasantly surprised by all these Touchmaster lines.

Another bargain on offer which I mentioned before is *El Dachero* (from Microcom at £60 plus 50p postage). I don't usually bother giving the addresses of companies like Microcom whose adverts are always in the magazines but as some readers will write in and ask about them I will tell you that they're at 41 Thru' Pasture St, Ashton-under-lyne, and if you are already an *El Dachero* user then you'd be interested in the newly formed Adventures Club (details of which are on the news pages this month). There's one lengthy newsletter illustrating a detailed look at the creation of *El Dachero*, going through the games but giving useful hints rather than answers to problems.

Too many readers this month to mention them all but several people did write and ask for the Help sheet on Microcom and the Microset, which I collated in a change for a few months ago. These have gone out. Though they are only hints rather than solutions, but I hope they have come in useful.

Lots of help offered on *The Crooklewood* by Paul Watson of Newcaste who has equally managed to comprise that wonderful game (the one which has given many of us daily 'fit' for playing some of Paul's other, less month, space permitting, and perhaps making a hard fit available for anyone who's interested — here's one if you are).

Tips on *Ring of Darkness* from Fred Bowden of Fakenham these having difficulty causing water or insurance. Just keep plugging away at increasing those experience points and you'll find that the stages in the levels closer to the objectives will start to offer you more interesting items. The hints and rules I've been extremely frustrated or just plain different. He's says [BREAK] into the program and type **CHAR** = **0001** = 1, where 1 is the number of additional points you want with $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ or 7 to represent respectively your present level. (I'd suggest starting at points experienced or 10). Then type **GO/GO 4450** to resume play.

Even with extra space there's no room to deal with all the month's letters in the column though everyone will get a reply if you do write, just leave it until that

Sunshine Publications gets a mountain of mail every day and therefore it does take time to sort all the letters and get them to the people concerned. If you have to wait a while that's the reason.

I have to add much for one that later thought from Matthew Lodge giving help to those interested in the help of a **SHFT** key press in *Attackers* and the Microset. Mat has says you should type **CHAR** [**ENTER**] then press **BREAK** twice. (In the cassette recording, then press the **1** key). To LOAD when you have saved type **CHAR** [**ENTER**], then **SIM/LOAD**, very often then the **1** key (**SHIFT** 0) and the motor will start and the game will load. He's also discovered that typing **BACK** is useful in the maze and beyond blocked doors. So a final thanks to Matthew for taking some of the madness out of *Attackers* and the Microset.

Adventure Helpline

To help puzzled adventurers further we are establishing an Adventure Helpline — simply fill in the coupon below, giving the name of the adventure, your problem and your name and address, and send it to Dragon User Adventure Help.

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Aug 88

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If you've got a technical question write to Brian Carter. Please do not send a SAD as Brian cannot guarantee to answer individual inquiries.

Dragon Answers

Cayman query

IN THIS part of the world there is a tremendous amount of software for the TBS 80 Color Computer. I would like to take advantage of that.

Recently I bought my first Color ROM cartridge, but when inserted into my Dragon 64 there was no response.

Could you please outline to me why this doesn't work or if there is a general problem in using Color ROM cartridges with the Dragon? If so what can I do to remedy the problem?

Finally, is the disk format of the Color Computer the same as DragonOS and will the former's disk software work on DragonOS drives?

K. Dunn

PO Box 1227
George Town
Cayman Islands
CW1-1227

WITH Dragon software becoming increasingly difficult to find in the high street emporiums, it is worth passing the list of ready cartridges which will work with the Dragon computer. These are: *Star Trek*, *Color Pac-Man*, *Space Invaders*, *Star Wars*, *Flight*, *Robot Chess*, *Space Invaders*, *Space Invaders*, *Widow's Walk*, and *Rogue Math*.

All these will work with the Dragon with the exception of *Space Invaders* (which is a game of three tracks on Colour), *Star Wars* (in Peter French's preparing the latter to fit).

DragonOS disks are not even compatible with Color disks.

Circuits

WHERE CAN I get a copy of the circuit diagram for the Dragon 64?

S. C. Hartman
London

Westgate

FOR ALL those readers that enjoy trying their own repairs or modifications, *Color Computer*, previously only available from Dragon Data, can now be obtained from *Commodore UK* the company for the UK and Ireland from the 22 you should write which address you have when



returning. They cost £2.99 each. Computer can be contacted on 0703 850 999.

Error—or not?

WHILE working away with my Dragon 35 I happened to type in **POKE 1024,-1,-1**. This gave me an error of the form **Bad COLOR**. I have never heard of this error so I checked my manual and was amazed it wasn't there. Could it be an operating system bug? An unprinted bug? What do you think it is?

Also is it possible some machine code to get an error colour in **POKE 4** on the Dragon?

— Jonathan Horner

Mid Glam

POKE location refers to the current horizontal pixel position at the given channel. **POKE 1024,-1,-1** gives the address of the last column. **POKE 1,-1,-1** gives the address of the first column, and **POKE 4,-1,-1** should give the address of the cassette buffer position.

The **HD-6400** you get depends on the **HD-Sys** card it is in fact installed in the machine. This occurs because you have not used an **HD-Sys** command. If you **OPEN 8,-1,-1** and then type **POKE 4,-1,-1** you will get a zero returned and an error. In fact the **POKE** address always returns a value with the cassette channel just as it is of little use to the **Basic** programmer.

In **POKE 4** the hardware will only allow the use of two colours, black and green, or black and white.

Hash bug

I add the manager of a local mobile equipment storage and manufacturing company and have

your Computer and Dragon World have shed many from the subject.

Paul Cherry
Milton Keynes

ONE OF the simplest ways to update machine code programs is to use the program bytes. Two machine code bytes in 6502 should be located low down in memory (perhaps stored at **1020** to **1021**, **1024** to **1025** etc) and then the high memory area must be high memory space located.

The first instruction in your code must be:

LDA #1

STA #1

LDAB #1

that creates the print vector which is used to execute the program.

The second displayed when running will also be displayed when reading the program (using **20,0,0,0**).

Unfortunately the hash coding algorithm used on page 48 of the Dragon Data R.M.8 manual does not seem to work and we are too used to reverse the escape from the file.

I will be very much obliged if you could give me the correct algorithm for hash coding of the **HD-Sys** key bytes to prevent us to depend on the unreliable features of the **CGA** system to their full extent.

— Paul Cherry

THE **HD-Sys** is the HD-Sys hash coding program as on the original disc from the bottom, which should read as follows:

10,-1,-1,-2222 otherwise check **HD-Sys** and **HD-Sys**.

Making this adjustment should mean that the program will run without any further errors.

M/c auto

DO YOU tell me how to get my machine code program to run automatically on booting? I know it must be difficult as both

FINALLY, a note regarding my message to **Simon Berlin** in the **Java** issue. I mentioned there was a need for a **Basic** type of program for **DragonOS**.

Since then a number of readers, including **Mark Hinchliffe** and **S. Parker** have written to tell me about a program called **Star Utilities** by **Ian Ellington**. This program is available for **6502** and includes nine simple utilities including vector setting, viewing and write to cassette facilities. Ian Ellington can be contacted at 11 **Whitstable Gardens**, **Whitstable**, **ME10 8AS**.

Get set to win Jet Set Willy!

Gordon Lee sets another mathematical conundrum —
Software Projects' Jet Set Willy is the prize

THINK of a number — that is, any positive whole number. If the number is even check it by test that is odd multiply by three and add one. This will give you a new value on which you repeat the same operation as before. This is then continued until a specific endpoint is reached.

But what is this endpoint? There are at least seven possible outcomes to the process. Either the number will increase without limit or possibly it may decrease until it reaches the value of one. Alternatively there is the possibility — somewhere during its operation it may happen upon a value that has already been reached. If it should happen thereafter it would be bound up in an endless loop of repeating numbers.

You might expect that any one of these possibilities might occur, depending perhaps on the initial value chosen. This is not so. All numbers so far tested by this method will eventually terminate at unity — although it must be stated that there is, at the present time, no rigor mathematical proof that this is the case for all numbers. This lack of a proof, together with the necessity to perform a rapid sequence of calculations, has resulted in this problem recurring from time to time in computer magazines. All starting values from 1 to 280 — a thirteen digit number — have been tested by computer and all eventually reduced to one in a greater or lesser number of steps.

Let's take a couple of easier examples and see how the problem works out. If we took as our starting value 26 we get the series 26 13 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 and 1. Similarly, with 280 we get 280 140 70 35 105 52 26 13 40 20 10 5 16 8 4 2 and 1 — a slightly longer series than the one but again with the same eventual result. However, if we were to start with 27 the series would not break until after 111 steps (during which time the longest path so far reached in the series would have been 8 232). This prompts a second question within the original problem. For a given number (N) is it possible to predict mathematically both the maximal path length (L) or the maximum value reached during the operations (M)? So far the answers to



These questions reflect something of an enigma, and it is mainly as a result of computers working out these values permanently that an idea of their nature is known. Taking just the three examples already mentioned, Figure 1 at the foot of the page below shows something of their graphical nature.

Programmers who wish to pursue their own lines of enquiry might find the following programs useful for calculating these values.

```
10 INPUT "STARTING VALUE" N
20 Z=1: S=0: M=0
30 IF Z=1 THEN GOTO 10
40 P=Z*2 + 1: T=Z*2+1: M=Z
50 S=S+1: GOTO 30
60 Z=Z+1: S=S+1: IF Z>M THEN
70 GOTO 90
79 PRINT "VALUE" N "HAS A PATH
80 LENGTH OF" S
89 PRINT "AND A MAX VALUE OF" M
90 GOTO 10
```

If a few figures are worked out it will be seen that, except for a few generalised cases, there is no correlation between any value (N) and its corresponding S and M values. The only predictable values are

powers of 2 where 2ⁿ is its own maximum value and has a path length of n.

If these relationships are studied more closely certain other enigmatic properties become simultaneously apparent. For example many numbers share the same path length and whole groups of numbers reach the same maximum value. Indeed certain consecutive numbers can even share the same path length and maximum value. This month's competition is to find the two best five consecutive numbers with this property. These are many such sets but which is the smallest?

Prize

FIFTEEN readers can win three-
dimensional games jet Set Willy in the
latter version of the game. The

Rules

TO WIN a copy of Jet Set Willy, you must both show the answer to the competition and how to solve it with the use of a basic program written on your Dragon. Please do not send in a cassette containing your answer. Please also make sure your name and address are printed clearly on your entry, and mark the envelope August competition.

As a reminder, invent names for three Jet Set Willy-type games — the better the better.

Your entry must reach Dragon User by the last working day in August. Winners will be announced in the November issue. The editor's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

May Winners

THE FOLLOWING people won Spring basic Computer: Adrian Bunting, Northallerton; Karen Jones of Pontefract; M J Hall of Taunton; M McDonough of Prestwich; S J Wells of Duxford; P Stewart of Catterline; J Whittle of North Wootton; A Horne of Rangeford; R Hall of Bishop's Stortford; P Williams of Chelmsford; P Bagshaw of Coseley; Robert Edwards of Dagenham; Paul Garside of Banbury; C J Smith of Chelmsford and Simon Cayton of Bexley.

They will be receiving their copies of Spring soon.

Figure 1 — path length and maximum values

Number (N)	No. of steps (S)	Max. value reached (M)
26	10	64
27	111	8232
28	16	52

Two more great games from A.N.F.



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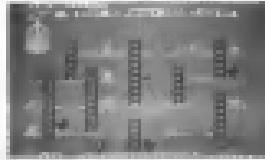
- Chuckie Egg £29.99
- Screaming Abdabs £9.99



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48 hour delivery service on most selected computer games



CHUCKIE EGG

When I have this game in my collection, I could be so successful! You must collect the eggs before the hawks get out and eat all your eggs. Watch out for the crazy duck - if the gets out of the cage, you're in big trouble!

SCREAMING ABDABS

Monsters, monsters, eat them and eat food! It's important your passage through this multi screen game. Our hero must negotiate his way through the 25 complex screens, collecting the key in the next level on the way. There are numerous traps and obstacles to hinder your progress, which include acidic water, moving platforms, collapsing floors, bats, conveyor belts and many more.

By playing one of the platforms, switches and the switches you might survive level 20. When you have the challenge of the 25th level, that is - only the experts will make it.



A.N.F. SOFTWARE LTD Ltd 101
Coralgate Industrial Estate, Northgate, Stevenage
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St. George now has two choices!

Red or green will slay the Dragon

- ▲ Nylon encased-Steel shafted joystick with ball and socket joint.
- ▲ Fast sprung return to centre.
- ▲ Graphite wiper linear potentiometers.
- ▲ 12 Months Guarantee.
- ▲ 7 day Money back Guarantee.

Complete control at your fingertips

The smooth control of the Voltmace delta sprung return joystick is now available to Dragon owners. Each joystick has been individually tested before it leaves our factory, guaranteeing accurate control, owing to press the dragon (we tested it more than a million times). This means that not only will your joystick be strong, rough and reliable,

but it also looks like, operates correctly and with the choice of red or green.

Two buttons, giving instant recognition between the left and right joysticks.

If you are not completely satisfied with the delta 3d joystick, we will give you a full refund.



Made in England

DELTA 3D JOYSTICK, PRICE
TWO DELTA 3D JOYSTICKS-£15.00
PLEASE STATE COLOURS REQUIRED
Please include VAT and Post.

Voltmace delta 3d

Cards welcome at the factory - Monday to Friday

Dragon joystick comes
out of your computer

More available
Required in some areas

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